

12
DEC



★ THIS IS IT!
THE BIG ISSUE
★ TWELVE!

JACK STAFF

HAS TIME FINALLY RUN OUT FOR
BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO?

£2.50 UK \$3.50 US



Ladies and Gentlemen...

Jack Staff 12!

Not a hoax!

Not a dream!

Not an imaginary story!



FLAG WAVING

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England

OKAY, BEFORE WE GET STARTED, LET'S JUST REMIND YOU WHO EVERYONE IS-

DET. INSP.
MAVERYK.
HE'S THE
GRUMPY
POLICEMAN
WHO HATES
SUPERHEROES.
(THERE'S
ALWAYS
ONE.)

oh COME ON, YOU
MUST REMEMBER
JACK STAFF.
BRITAIN'S
GREATEST
HERO? - THAT'S
HIM ON THE
COVER!

SO
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
OUT
THERE?

CHARLIE RAVEN
- THE GREATEST
ESCAPOLOGIST OF
THE VICTORIAN
AGE - A BIT LIKE
DAVID BLAINE
ONLY HE'D BE ABLE
TO GET OUT OF
THE BOX!



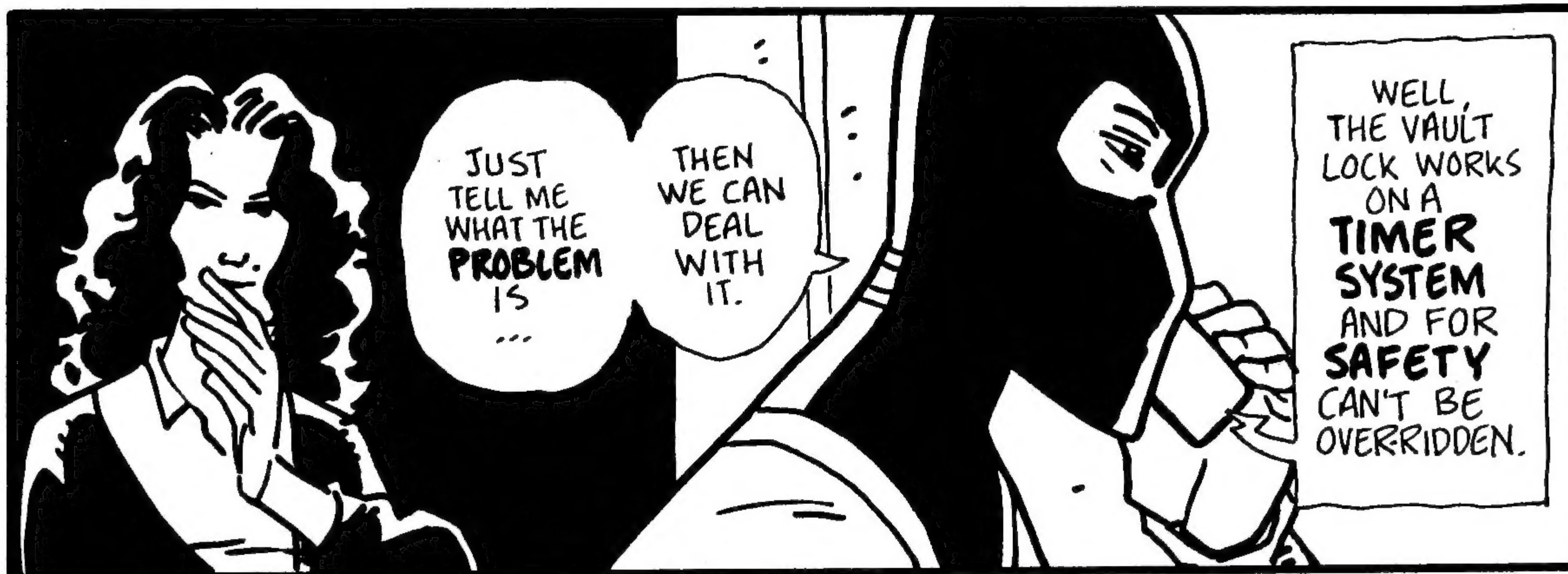
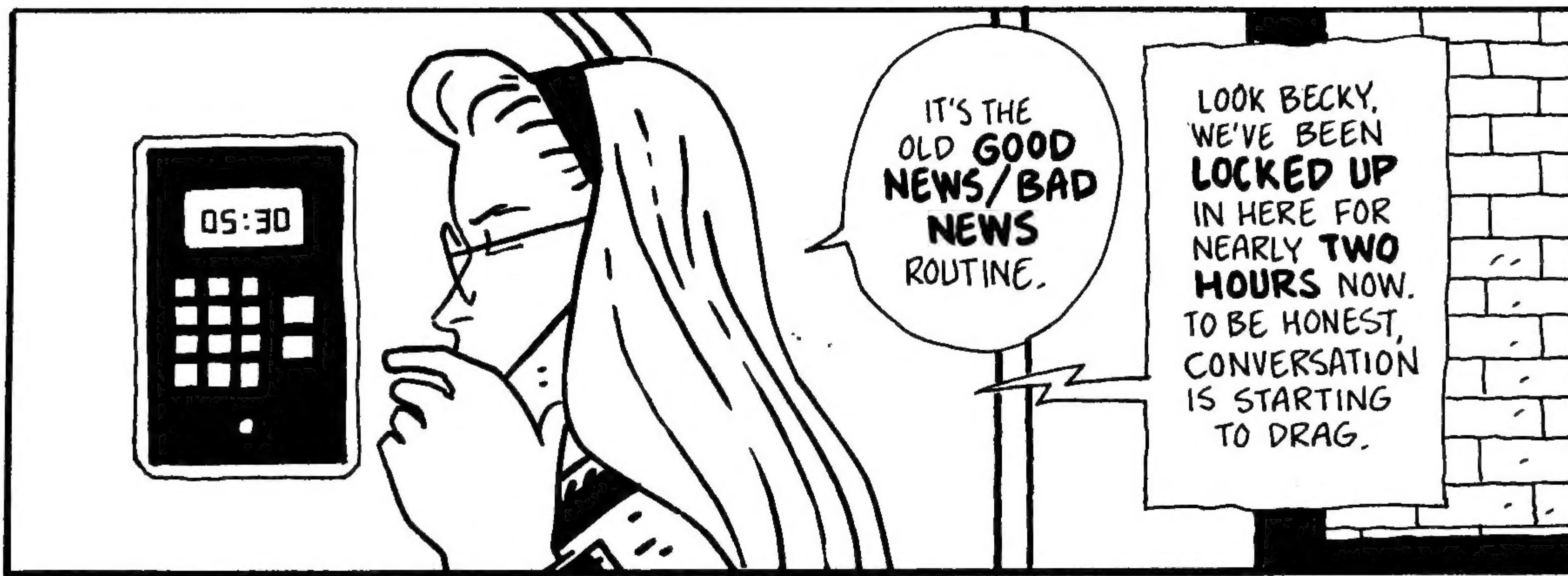
TIMES UP!

A FEATURE LENGTH STORY BY THE LATE PAUL GRIST!



★ JACK STAFF ★ BECKY BURDOCK ★ D.I. MAVERYK ★ CHARLIE RAVEN ★

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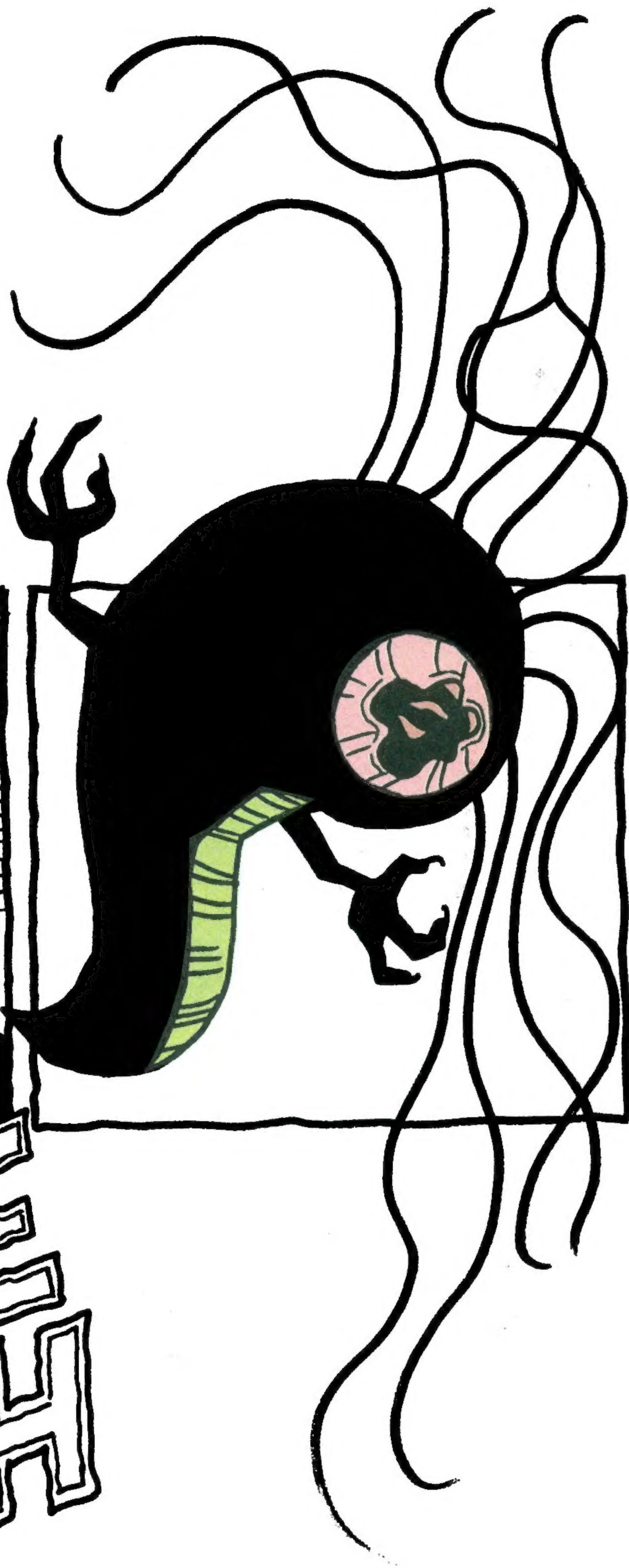
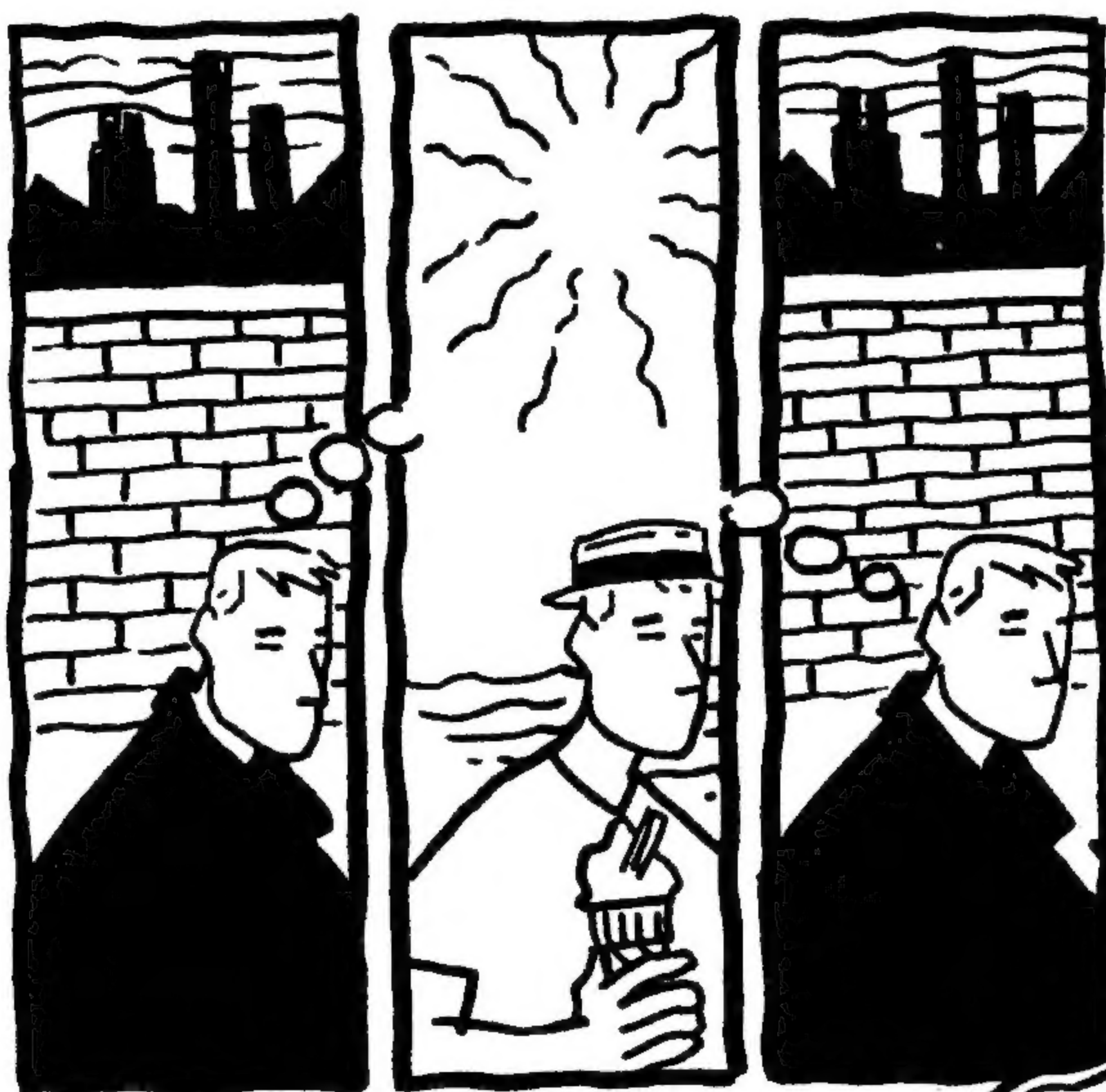
HEY!

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW WHEN YOU'RE WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN, THE **LONGER** IT SEEMS TO TAKE? MINUTES DRAG BY LIKE HOURS AND HOURS LIKE DAYS

AND THEN WHEN IT **FINALLY** HAPPENS, THIS THING YOU'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR, IT ALL SEEMS TO BE OVER IN THE TIME IT TAKES TO BLINK.

YOU WAIT ALL YEAR FOR A FORTNIGHTS HOLIDAY IN **SCARBOROUGH**, BUT WHEN IT'S ALL OVER IT'S LIKE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN AWAY.

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?



TIME'S A
FUNNY
THING-
I SHOULD
KNOW,
I'M A
**TIME
LEECH**

I'LL TELL YOU MY STORY
IF YOU'VE GOT THE **TIME**.



SO WHAT'S A **TIME LEECH** DO THEN?
WELL, NOT VERY MUCH REALLY. THERE'S
LOADS OF US, ALL AROUND YOU. WE
JUST FLOAT AROUND IN THE **TIME
STREAM**, LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME.
THAT'S WHAT WE EAT, **TIME**. GOOD
TIMES, HAPPY TIMES, TIMES FULL OF
POTENTIAL, HOPE AND JOY. THAT'S THE
KIND OF TIME WE LIKE THE BEST.

THAT'S THE REASON IT ALWAYS TAKES
SO LONG AT THE DENTIST. NO
TIME LEECHES YOU SEE.

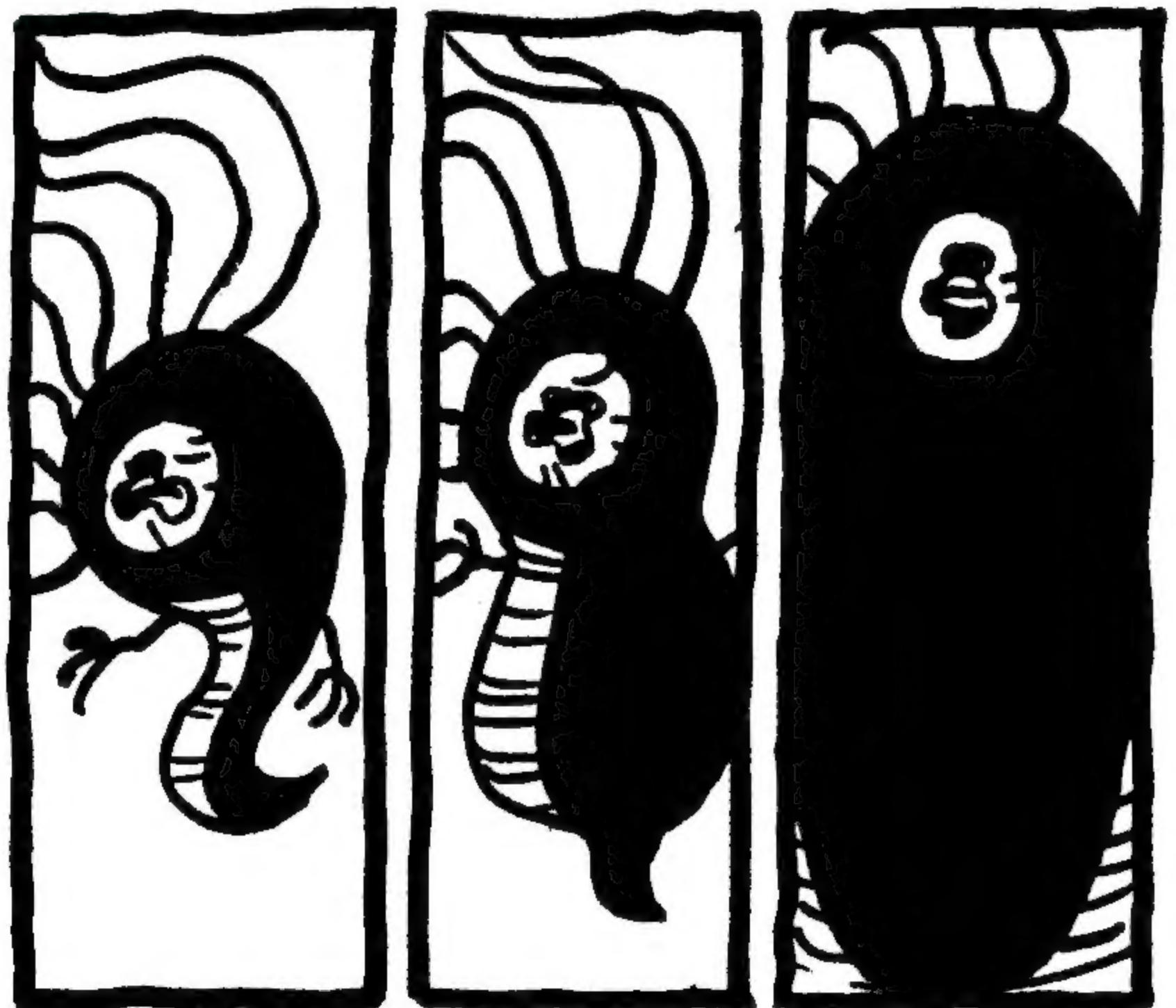
LIKE I SAID, WE DON'T DO VERY
MUCH AND THAT'S ABOUT IT.

BUT ONE DAY SOMETHING A LITTLE
BIT UNUSUAL HAPPENED.

SEE, I WAS JUST SWIMMING DOWN
THE TIME STREAM WHEN I SAW
THIS FIGURE JUST FLOATING THERE.

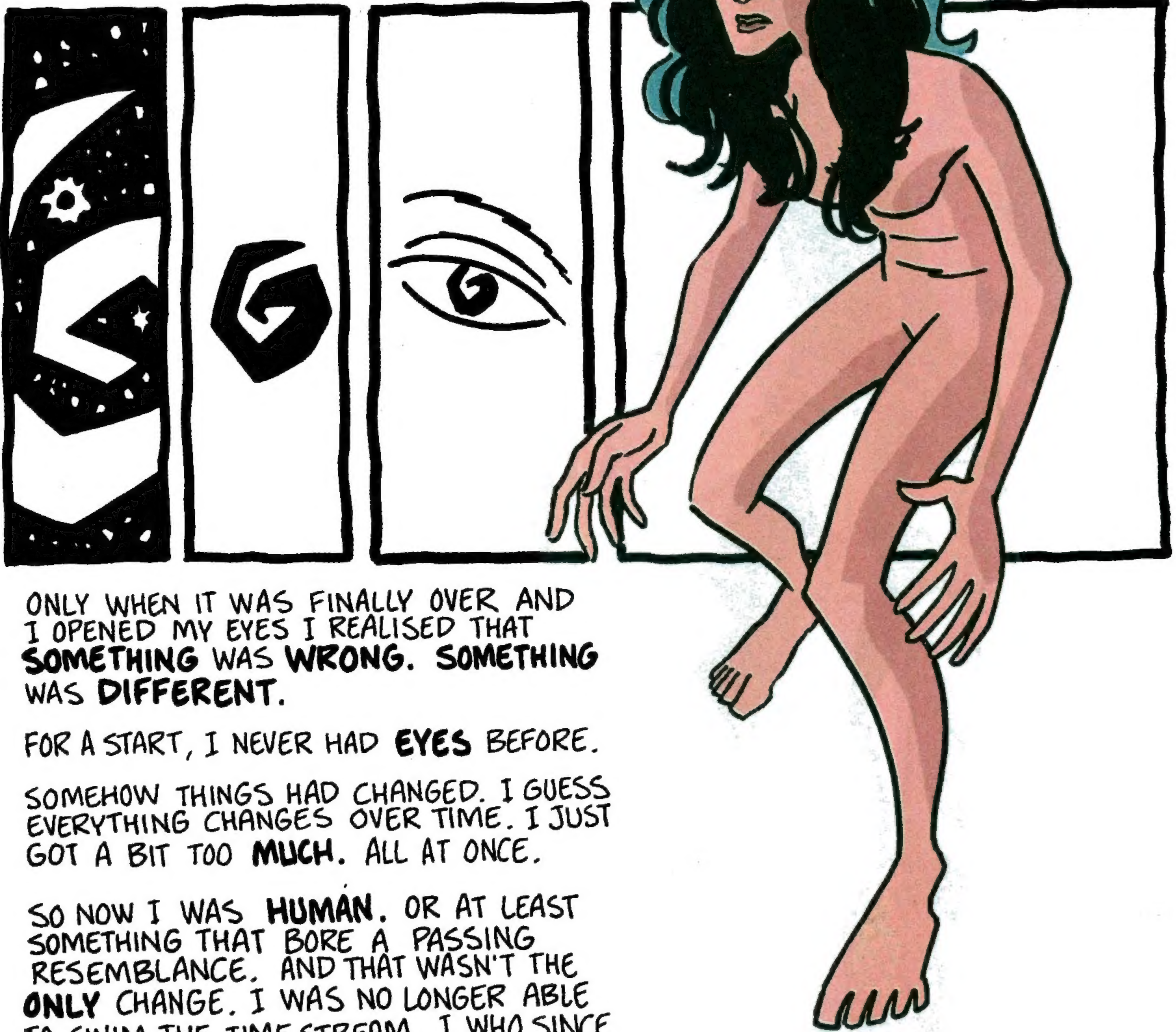
NOW I'VE BEEN AROUND A BIT BUT
I'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE
THIS BEFORE, SO I COULD HAVE
BEEN A BIT MORE CAUTIOUS, BUT
TIME LEECHES AREN'T THE BRIGHTEST
CREATURES IN CREATION. WE'RE NOT
EVEN THE BRIGHTEST CREATURES -
IN THE **TIME STREAM**.

AND I COULD **FEEL** THE **TIME** IN
THIS GUY. IT WAS RICH AND STRONG
HE WAS LIKE TIME PERSONIFIED.
SO I HELD ONTO HIM AND DRANK.



AND DRANK AND DRANK AND DRANK
UNTIL FINALLY **POP** AND I BURST.

I FOUND I WAS SPREAD ACROSS THE TIME STREAM. IT HAPPENS. A **TIME BURP**. I NEEDED TO REFORM, TO GATHER MY SCATTERED PRESENCE BACK INTO IT'S PROPER FORM. SO **SLOWLY**, BIT BY BIT, PIECE BY PIECE, MOMENT BY MOMENT I PUT MYSELF BACK TOGETHER. OF COURSE IT TOOK A **LONG** TIME, BUT, Y'KNOW I'M A **TIME LEECH**. IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE GOT, IT'S **TIME**.



ONLY WHEN IT WAS FINALLY OVER AND I OPENED MY EYES I REALISED THAT **SOMETHING WAS WRONG. SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT.**

FOR A START, I NEVER HAD **EYES** BEFORE.

SOMEHOW THINGS HAD CHANGED. I GUESS EVERYTHING CHANGES OVER TIME. I JUST GOT A BIT TOO **MUCH**. ALL AT ONCE.

SO NOW I WAS **HUMAN**. OR AT LEAST SOMETHING THAT BORE A PASSING RESEMBLANCE. AND THAT WASN'T THE **ONLY** CHANGE. I WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO SWIM THE TIME STREAM. I, WHO SINCE TIME BEGAN, HAD BEEN OUTSIDE OF IT WAS SUBJECT TO A WHOLE NEW RANGE OF EXPERIENCES.

AND I WAS **BORED. BORED. BORED.**

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS IN A FIXED TIME FLOW. YOU NEED AN AMBITION. A HOBBY. SOMETHING TO HELP PASS THE TIME.

I DECIDED TO **CONQUER THE WORLD.**



NOT THAT I WAS IN ANY HURRY. TIME WAS ON **MY** SIDE. I DECIDED TO START SMALL AND WORK MY WAY UP.

I SET UP A HOUSE. A BASE OF OPERATIONS WHERE PEOPLE OF POWER AND INFLUENCE WERE ABLE TO INDULGE THEIR LITTLE 'ECCENTRICITIES'. FOR A PRICE. FOR A TIME. AFTER ALL, I MIGHT APPEAR HUMAN, BUT I WAS STILL A **TIME LEECH**, I STILL NEEDED THAT ENERGY.

BUT I WAS HUMAN ENOUGH TO FIND THAT AMBITION WITH NO-ONE TO SHARE IT WITH WAS A LONELY THING.

I LOOKED FOR A **COMPANION**.

I FOUND A **SHOWMAN**.

HIS NAME WAS **CHARLIE RAVEN**. HE WAS A TRULY REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL. IN THE VICTORIAN AGE HE SEEMED A MAN OUT OF TIME. HE WAS FULL OF ENERGY AND LIFE.

BUT IN THE END HE WAS JUST AS FULL OF THE PETTY NARROW MINDNESS OF HIS AGE.

INSTEAD OF STANDING **WITH** ME, HE CHOSE TO STAND **AGAINST** ME.

SO I DRUGGED HIM AND BURIED HIM IN THE GARDEN WHERE I COULD FEED ON HIM AT A LATER TIME.



BUT LATER THAT SAME NIGHT, MY HOUSE WAS RAIDED BY THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY. IT SEEMS MY ACTIVITIES HAD NOT GONE UNNOTICED.

DURING THE CONFUSION I HIT MY HEAD AGAINST A DOOR FRAME.

AND SOMEWHERE IN THE **CONFUSION** AND THE **NOISE**, I **FORGOT**. I FORGOT **WHO** I WAS. I FORGOT **WHAT** I WAS. AND INSTEAD OF TAKING TIME, I LET TIME TAKE **ME**.

AND I GREW OLD.

UNTIL ONE DAY I MET A MAN WAS ALMOST AS RICH IN TIME AS THAT FIGURE I HAD FOUND IN THE **TIME STREAM**.

A SINGLE TOUCH RESTORED MY **MIND**, MY **YOUTH**, MY **POWER**.

BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP

HELLO?



WHAT MORE COULD I TAKE FROM THIS MAN? HE **HAD** TO BE **MINE**. HIS **POWER** **HAD** TO BE **MINE**. IT WASN'T TOO **DIFFICULT** TO FOLLOW HIS **TRAIL**.

I FOUND HIM QUEUING BEHIND ORDINARY PEOPLE IN A BANK. WHAT A WASTE OF **GOOD TIME**.

STANDING BEHIND HIM I COULD FEEL HIS **ENERGY**, HIS **STRENGTH**, HIS **TIME**. ALL I HAD TO DO TO TAKE IT WAS TO **TOUCH** HIM. ALL I HAD TO DO WAS TO **REACH OUT**.

AND ALL IT WOULD TAKE WAS A MOMENT OF HIS TIME.

If I close my eyes, that's
when the dream begins

I'm going on a picnic.
It's a sunny day and
all my friends are there.

It's a happy dream.

Then dark clouds come
and block out the sun.
Only they aren't clouds.
It's just a shadow.

And suddenly, every
one is FIGHTING.

And it's violent. Brutal.

And one by one, all
my friends go away.

Until all that's
left in the end
is ME.

And the
FIGHTING.

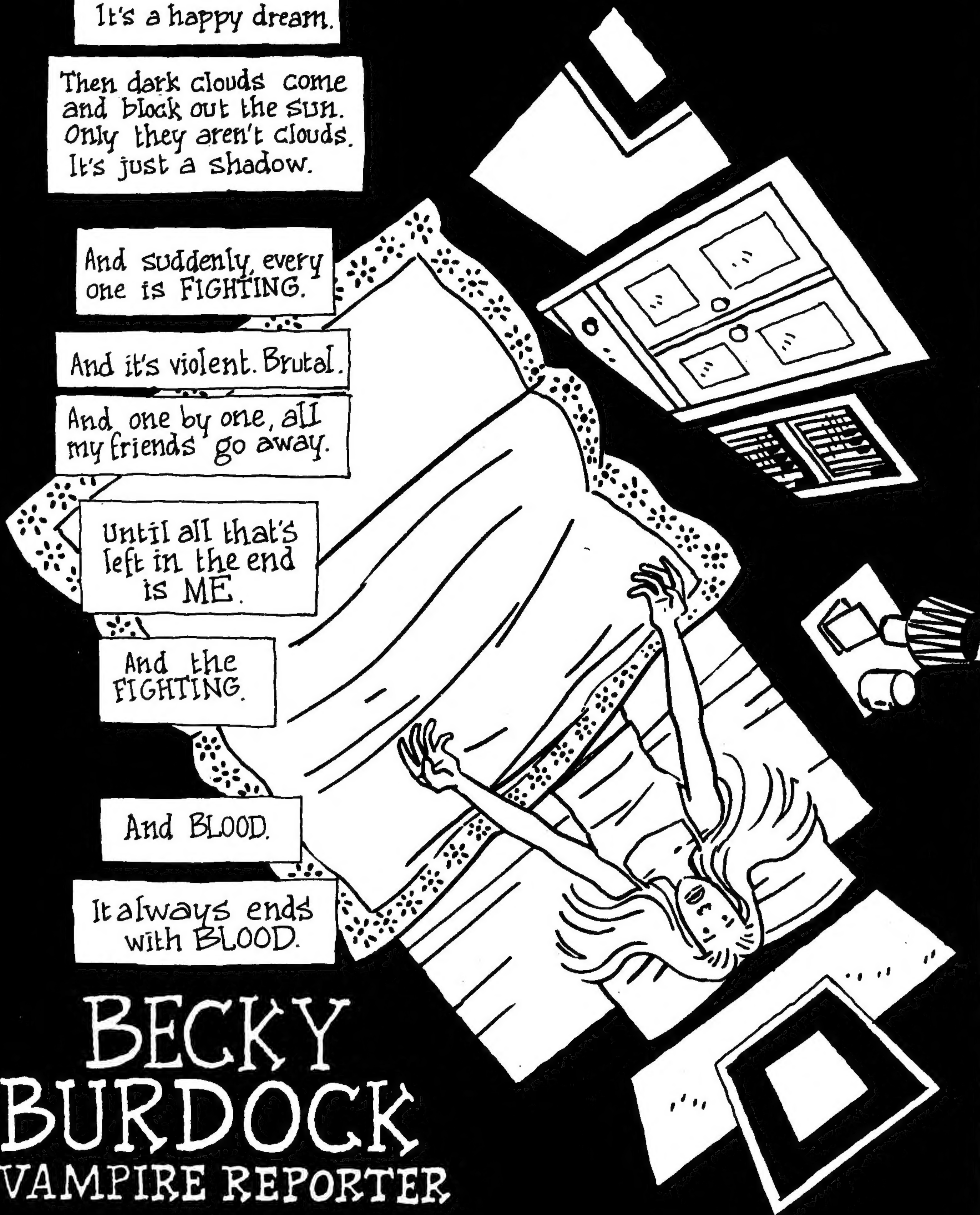
And BLOOD.

It always ends
with BLOOD.

BECKY BURDOCK

VAMPIRE REPORTER

I've not been sleeping
too well lately.



Actually this whole
VAMPIRE thing
isn't what everyone
tends to think.



Okay, I'm dead.
I'm not too thrill-
ed about that.

And yes, there's
the teeth...



But I walk out
during daylight.

I don't drink
blood.

And I can see
my reflection
in the mirror.



And

I can see some
one ELSE'S re-
flection in
the mirror.



NO ONE
LOCKS UP

**CHARLIE
RAVEN**

THE
GREATEST
ESCAPOLOGIST
OF THE
VICTORIAN
AGE!

I'm a reporter.



Okay, I work for
THE WORLD'S PRESS.
I still pay the
NUJ dues.

I've heard stories
before. TALL stories.

This one's a SKY
SCRAPER.

The guy claims to be
CHARLIE RAVEN, a
Victorian escapologist
last seen in 1877.

OKAY
MISTER
RAVEN,
TALK TO
ME.

AND
THIS HAD
BETTER
BE GOOD.

I FEAR
IT'S BAD
MISS
BURDOCK.

VERY
BAD.

There was a
woman who fed
on other peoples
time.

Her touch could
make a young
man die of OLD
AGE. She wanted
to rule the world.
RAVEN had tried
to stop her.

He failed. He
was drugged,
locked in a case
and buried
underground.

YOU
HAVE TO
HELP
ME MISS
BURDOCK.
...

PLEASE
...

UNLESS
WE ACT
QUICKLY,
THE EMPIRE
WILL
FALL!

It all sounds
unbelievable.

But there is a
look in his eyes.

Okay Becky-
it's Make Your
Mind Up Time.

In the end ...

HELLO?

There only is
one choice.

IS THAT
THE **ABBAY**
PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITAL?

I THINK
A PATIENT OF
YOURS HAS
ESCAPED
...

BECAUSE
HE'S SAT
RIGHT HERE
IN MY
KITCHEN,
THAT'S WHY!

CALLS
HIMSELF
**CHARLIE
RAVEN**
-THAT'S RIGHT
THE ONE IN
THE BOX--

EXCUSE
ME I'VE
GOT ANOTHER
CALL COMING
THROUGH.

BETTY?
IS THAT
YOU? I'VE
BEEN TRYING
TO GET
HOLD OF
YOU...

MISTER
SKINNER,
I'VE GOT A
LEAD ON
CHARLIE
RAVEN
...

AH! FORGET
IT LUV-
**YESTERDAYS
NEWS!**

I'VE GOT
A BIGGIE
FOR YOU.
I'VE JUST
HAD A
TIP OFF
FROM MY
SOURCE
AT THE
POLICE.

THEY'RE
INVESTIGATING
A TWENTY
TWO YEAR
OLD NURSIN'
ASSISTANT
WHO'S JUS'
DIED OF
**OLD
AGE!**

HEY!
IT'S ME,
BECKY.
WE NEED
TO **TALK**
...

I'M WHAT THEY
CALL AN OLD
FASHIONED COPPER.

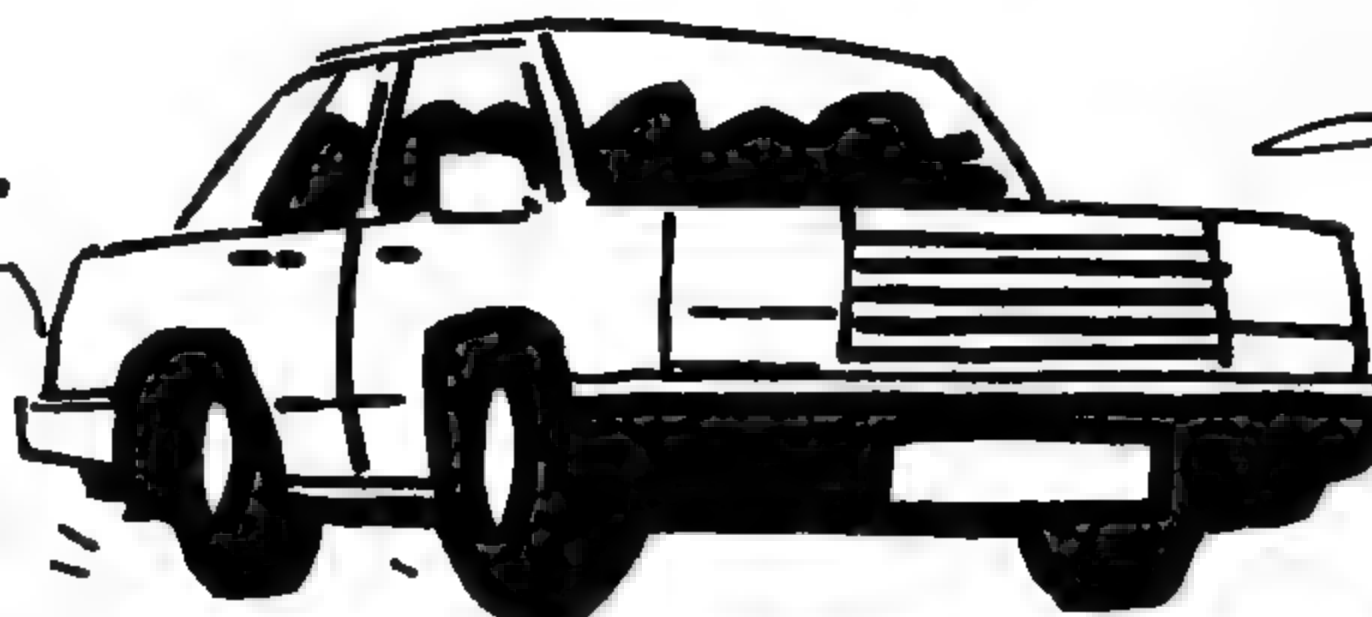
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR MAVERYK

I'M A **THIEF
TAKER.**

WHEN DID THAT
BECOME A **CRIME?**

PERHAPS
WE SHOULD
CALL IN
Q GUV.

THIS
ISN'T A
QUESTION
MARK
CRIME
NOLAN...



...AND I DON'T
NEED HELEN
MORGAN MUDDY-
ING THE WATER.
I KNOW WHO'S
DONE THIS, I
JUST NEED TO
FIND HER.

I WALKED
PAST HER ON
THE WAY INTO THE
NURSING HOME.
SHE WAS DRESSED
LIKE A NURSE,
BUT NO-ONE
KNEW ABOUT
HER WHEN
I ASKED.

IF YOU
SAY SO GUV,
BUT **TWENTY
TWO** YEAR OLDS
DYING OF **OLD
AGE** SOUNDS
LIKE A **Q
CRIME**
TO ME!

**FIND
HER**
AND WE'VE
SOLVED
THIS CASE.



STOP! STOP
THE CAR,
NOLAN!

WHAT
?

WHAT?
**WHAT
IS IT?**

OVER
THERE-
JUST GOING
INTO THE
NAT WEST
BANK - IT'S
HER.
...

THE
WOMAN
FROM
THE
NURSING
HOME!

RIGHT -
YOU BETTER
CALL
THIS IN
NOLAN.



HER
TIME'S
UP!

NatWest



IT'S
**CHARLIE
RAVEN**
THE ESCA-
POLOGIST

HE
ESCAPED.

THERE'S
THIS WOMAN
WHO **EATS
TIME!**
SHE'S THE
ONE WHO
BURIED
HIM!

AND NOW
IT LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S
BACK
TOO!

WHERE
ARE YOU?
IN
TOWN?

WHERE?

WE'LL
BE
**TWO
MINUTES!**

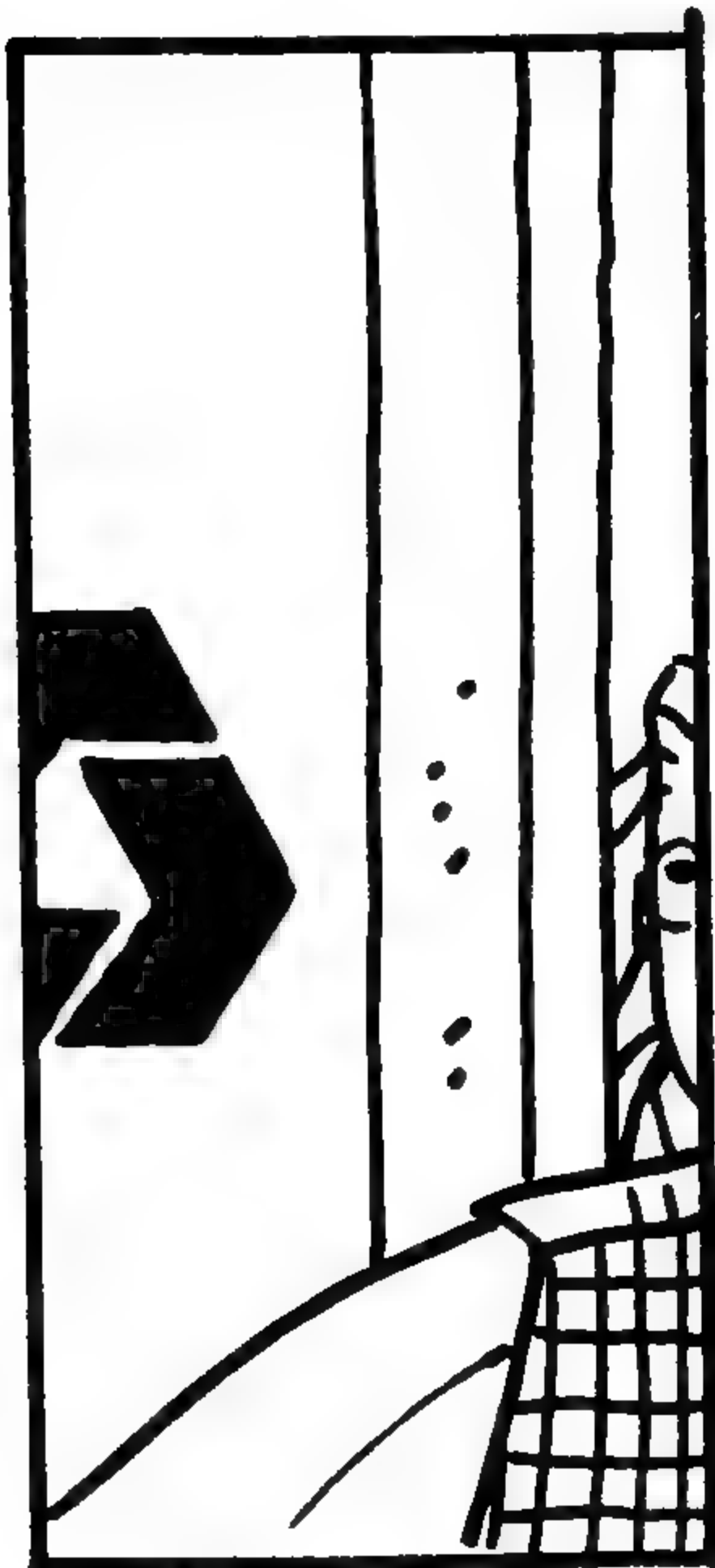
CHARLIE RAVEN

IS
DRAGGED ALONG
THROUGH A WORLD.
HE NO LONGER
KNOWS OR CAN
UNDERSTAND!

PEOPLE HURRY
DOWN CROWDED
STREETS TALKING
TO THEMSELVES!

SO **MANY** PEOPLE!
COLOURS, NOISES
ASSAULT HIS SENSES!

WHAT STRANGE ALIEN
WORLD **IS** THIS?



BUT IN A WORLD WHERE DOORS MYSTERIOUSLY **OPEN** AS YOU APPROACH
THEM, **CHARLIE RAVEN** FINALLY FINDS SOMETHING **FAMILIAR**, A
FACE HE **RECOGNISES**, A FACE HE WILL **NEVER FORGET!**

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO **CHARLIE RAVEN!** HE HAS SEEN HIS FRIENDS **AGE** AND **DIE** IN MOMENTS! HE HAS BEEN **BURIED UNDERGROUND** FOR OVER A **HUNDRED YEARS!**

NO! **BLAM!**



HE IS A MAN OUT OF **PLACE**, OUT OF **TIME**, **TRAPPED** IN A WORLD HE CANNOT **ESCAPE--**

AND IT'S **ALL HER FAULT!**



CHARLIE RAVEN FEELS HIS HANDS **TIGHTEN** AROUND HER **THROAT!** HE **SEES** NOTHING BUT HER! HE **HEARS** NOTHING BUT HER! HE **FEELS** NOTHING BUT HER! FOR THIS **SINGLE MOMENT**, NOTHING EXISTS BUT THESE TWO COMBATANTS!

THEN SHE REACHES OUT TOWARDS HIM, AND **CHARLIE RAVEN** FEELS HER **TOUCH!**

NOTHING! MAYBE THE LONG YEARS
SPENT UNDERGROUND, UNTOUCHED BY THE
PASSAGE OF TIME, HAVE RENDERED HIM
IMPERVIOUS TO THIS DEMONS TOUCH!
IT MATTERS NOT HOW -- ONLY THAT NOW
IT IS **CHARLIE RAVEN** WHO HAS THE ADVANTAGE

THE
TABLES
ARE **TURNUED**
SHE-DEVIL
...

NOW
IT IS **MY**
TOUCH-
MY HAND-
THAT WILL
END **YOUR**
LIFE!



NO! WHAT **MADNESS** IS THIS?

UNNUGH!

IT'S NO GOOD-
IT'S NOT MOVING!

COME
ON
STAFF!

WHAT
KIND OF
**SUPER
HERO** ARE
YOU ANY
WAY?

RIGHT
NOW?

I'M THE
ONLY ONE
YOU'VE
GOT.

IF I'D STILL
GOT MY STAFF
I MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO
PUNCH SOME
AIR HOLES
IN THE

EXCUSE
ME?

FORGIVE
MY INT-
RUSION

BUT AM I
RIGHT TO
UNDERSTAND
A **RIVER**
RUNS
BEHIND
THIS
WALL?

uh-

YES.
I GUESS
SO.

SO
THAT'S
IT
THEN?

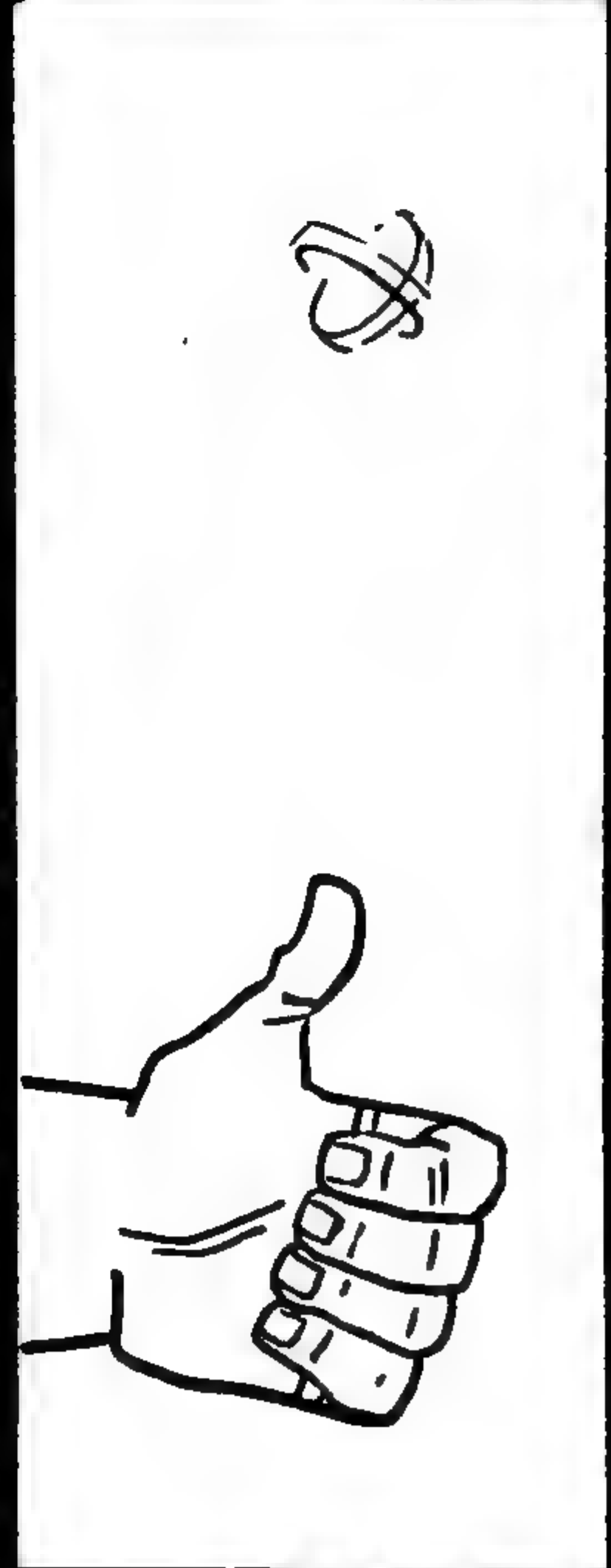
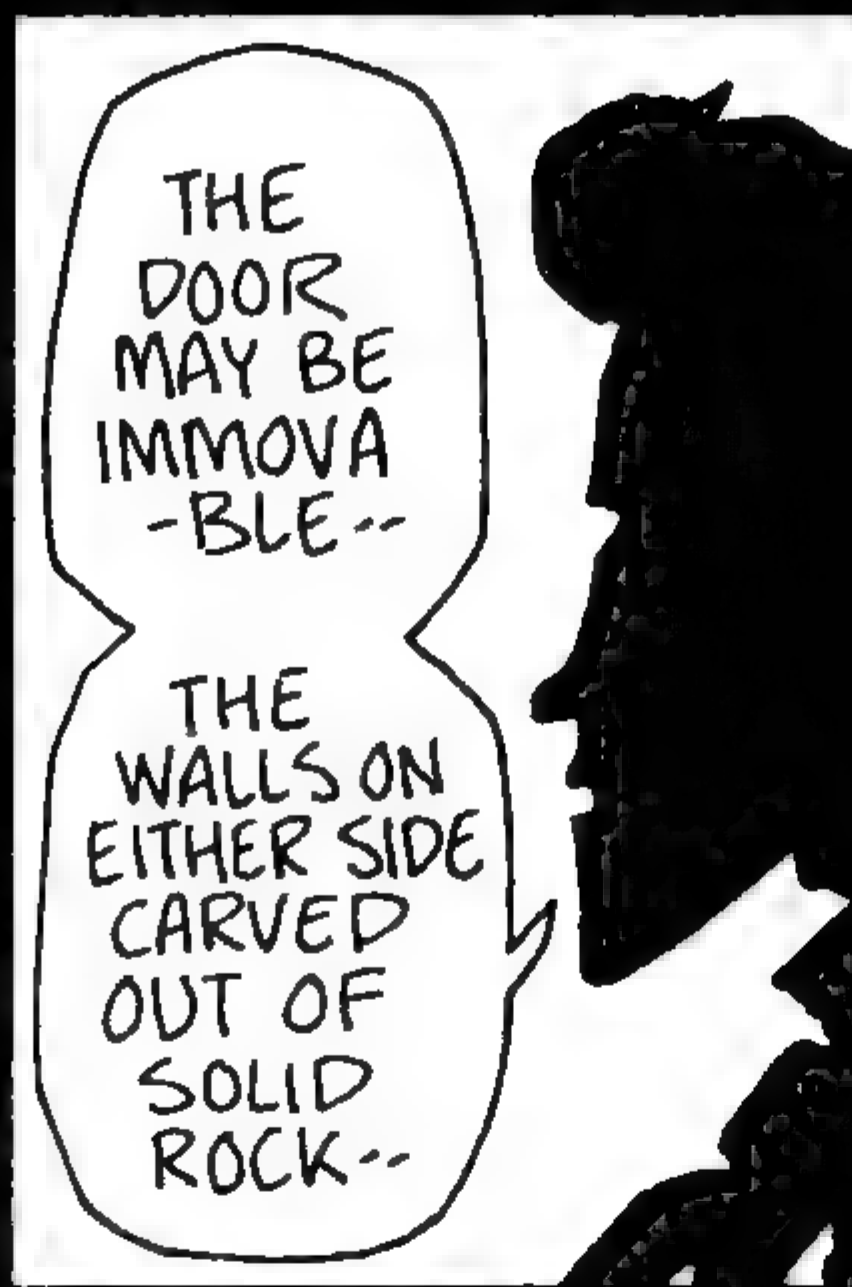
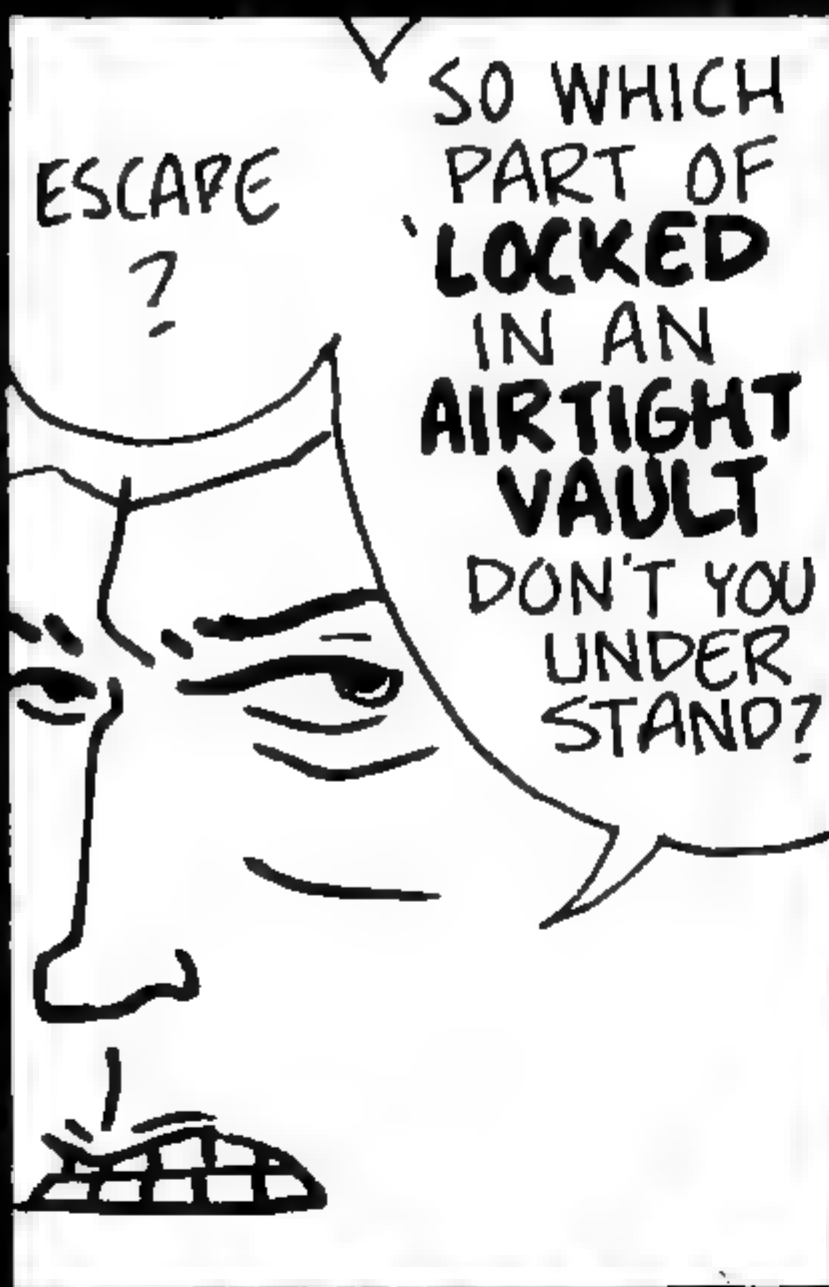
WE
JUST
WAIT
HERE TO
DIE?

NO

OKAY,
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK WE
SHOULD
DO?

DO?

WE
ESCAPE
OF COURSE.



HELLO?

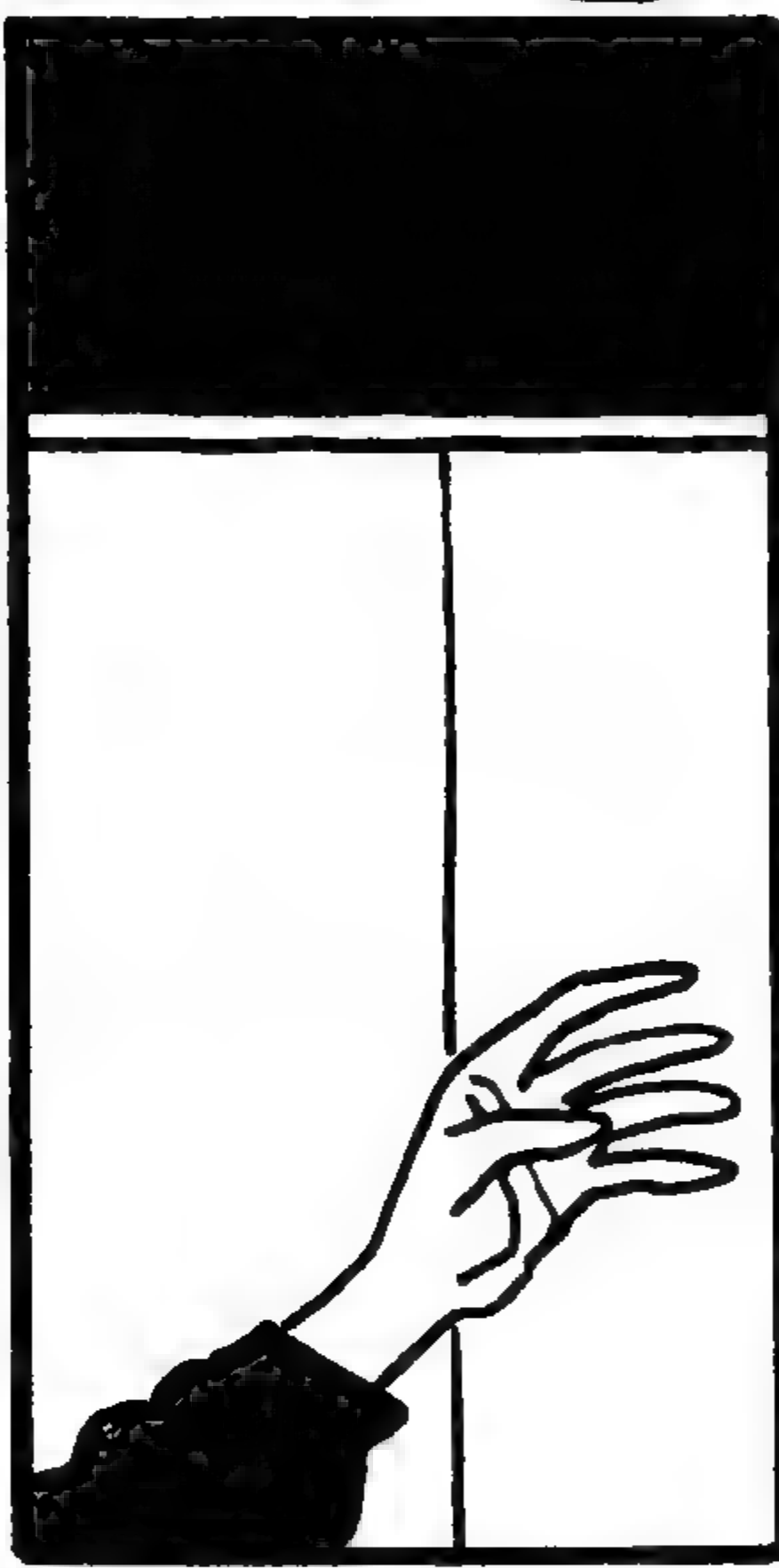
WE DO?

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT THEN?

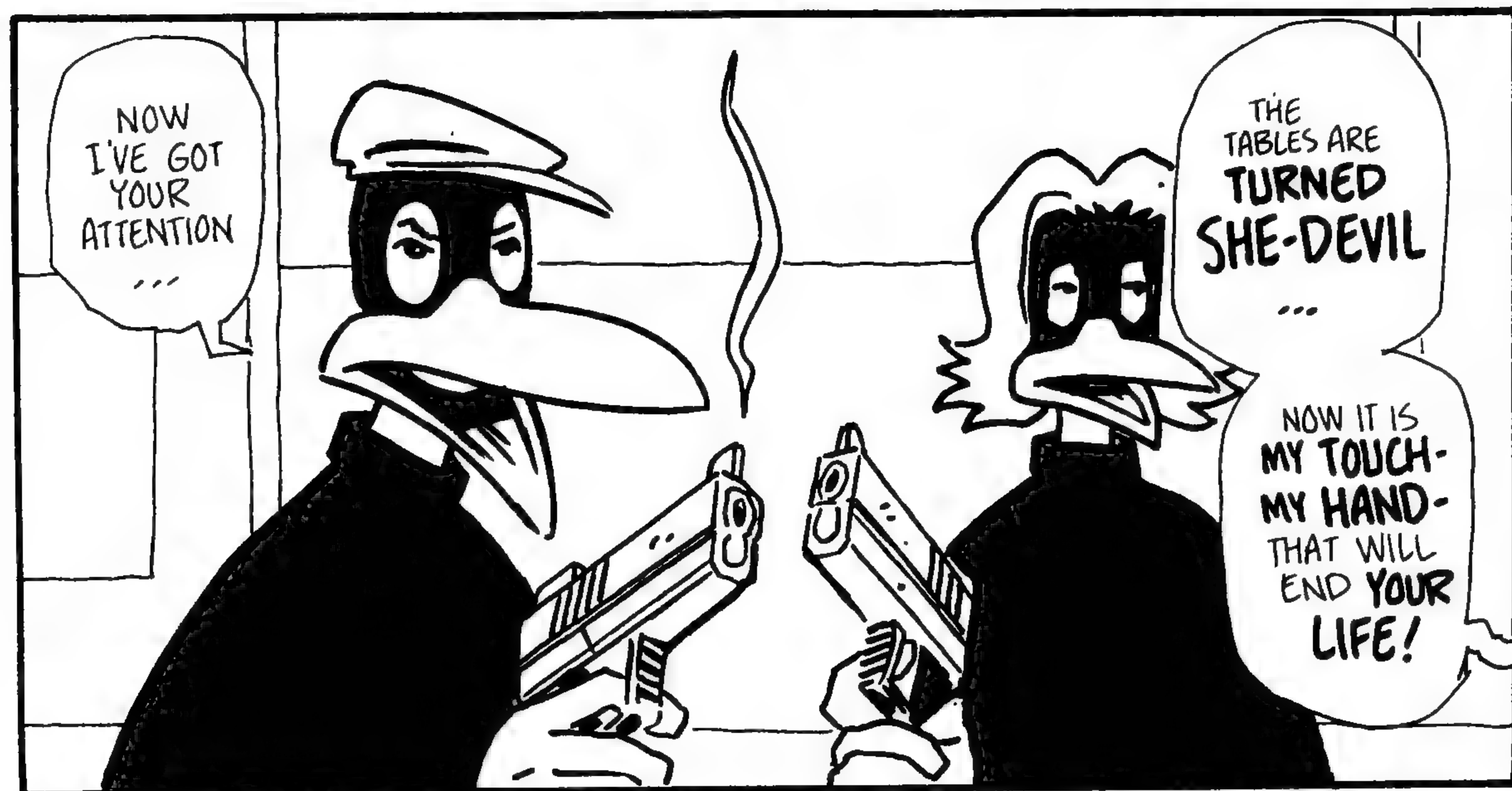
THIS IS **JOHN SMITH**.
HE'S A BUILDER BY TRADE -
HE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE
**BRITAIN'S
GREATEST HERO!**

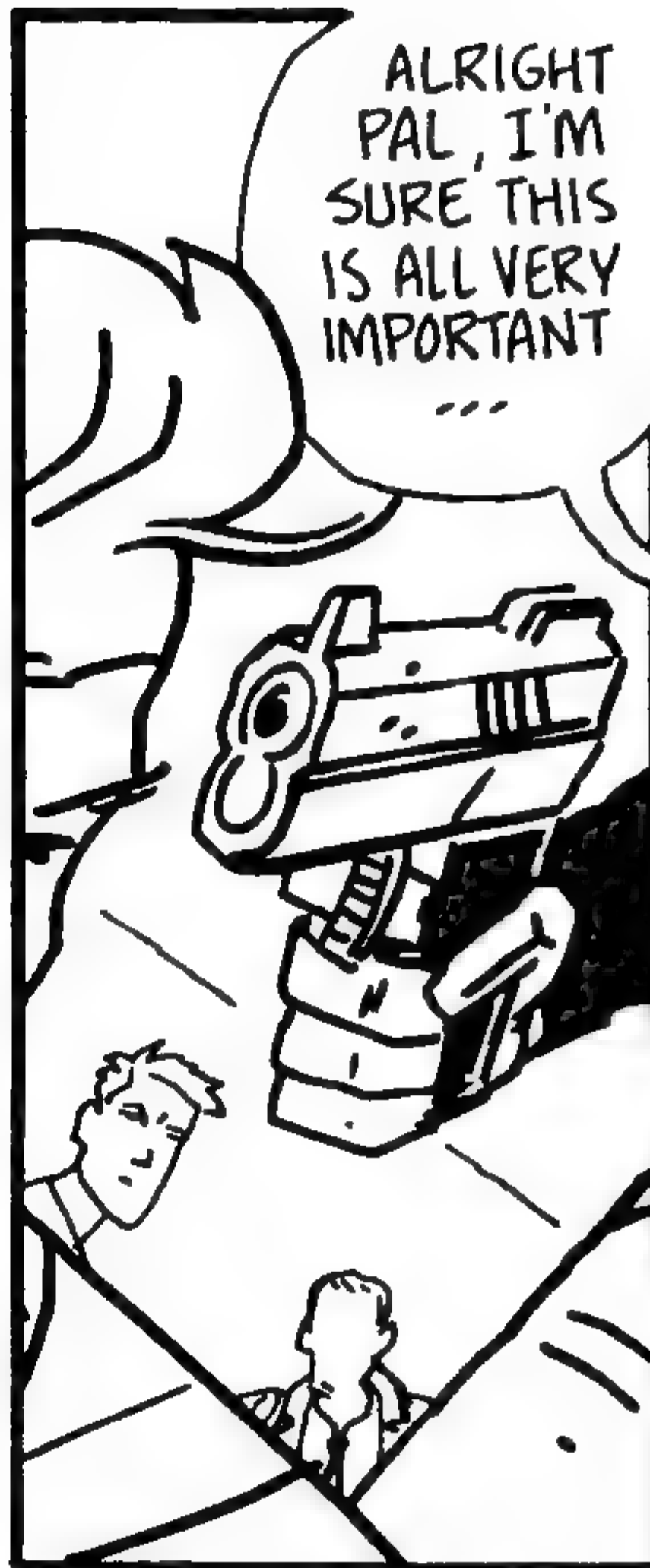
JACK STAFF

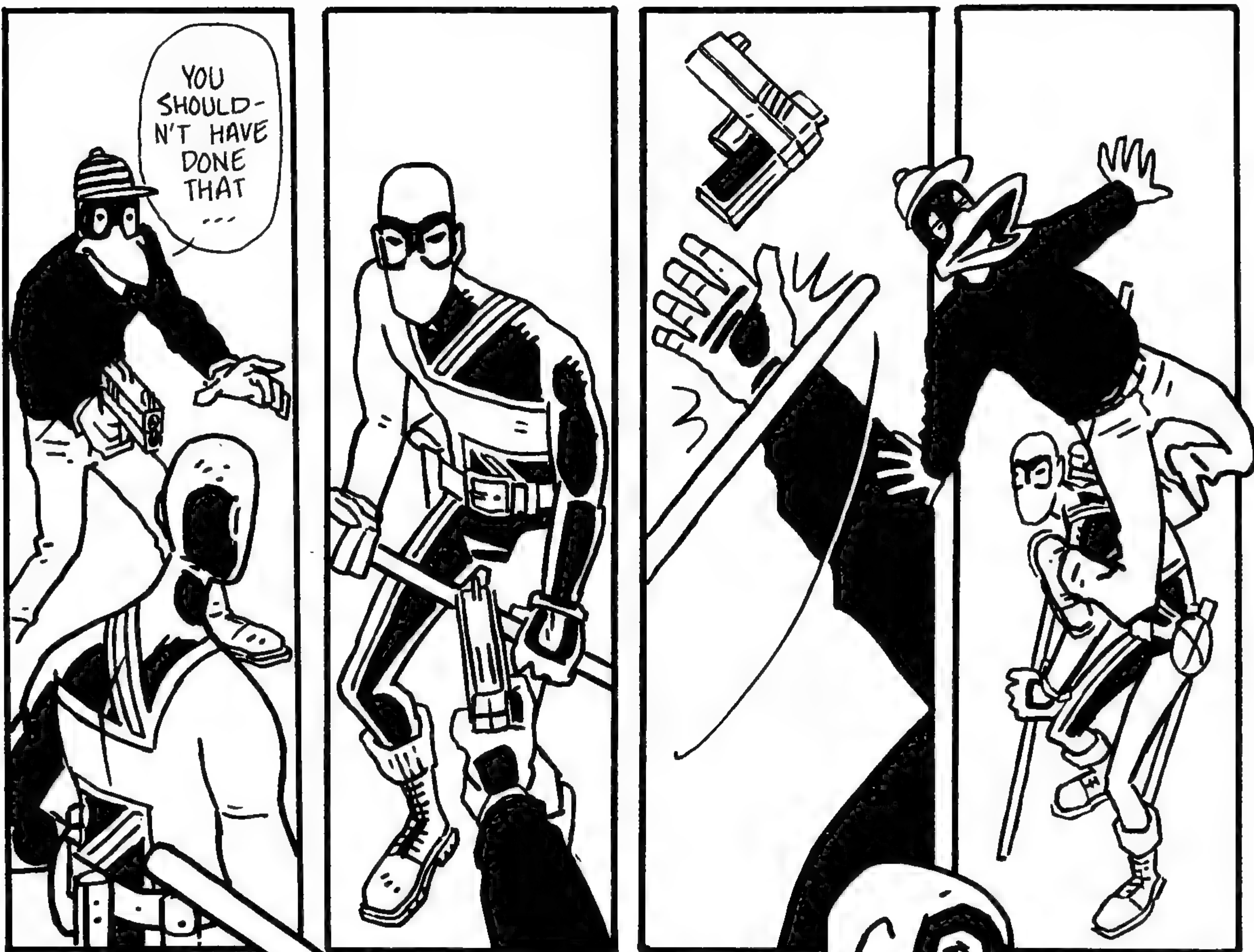


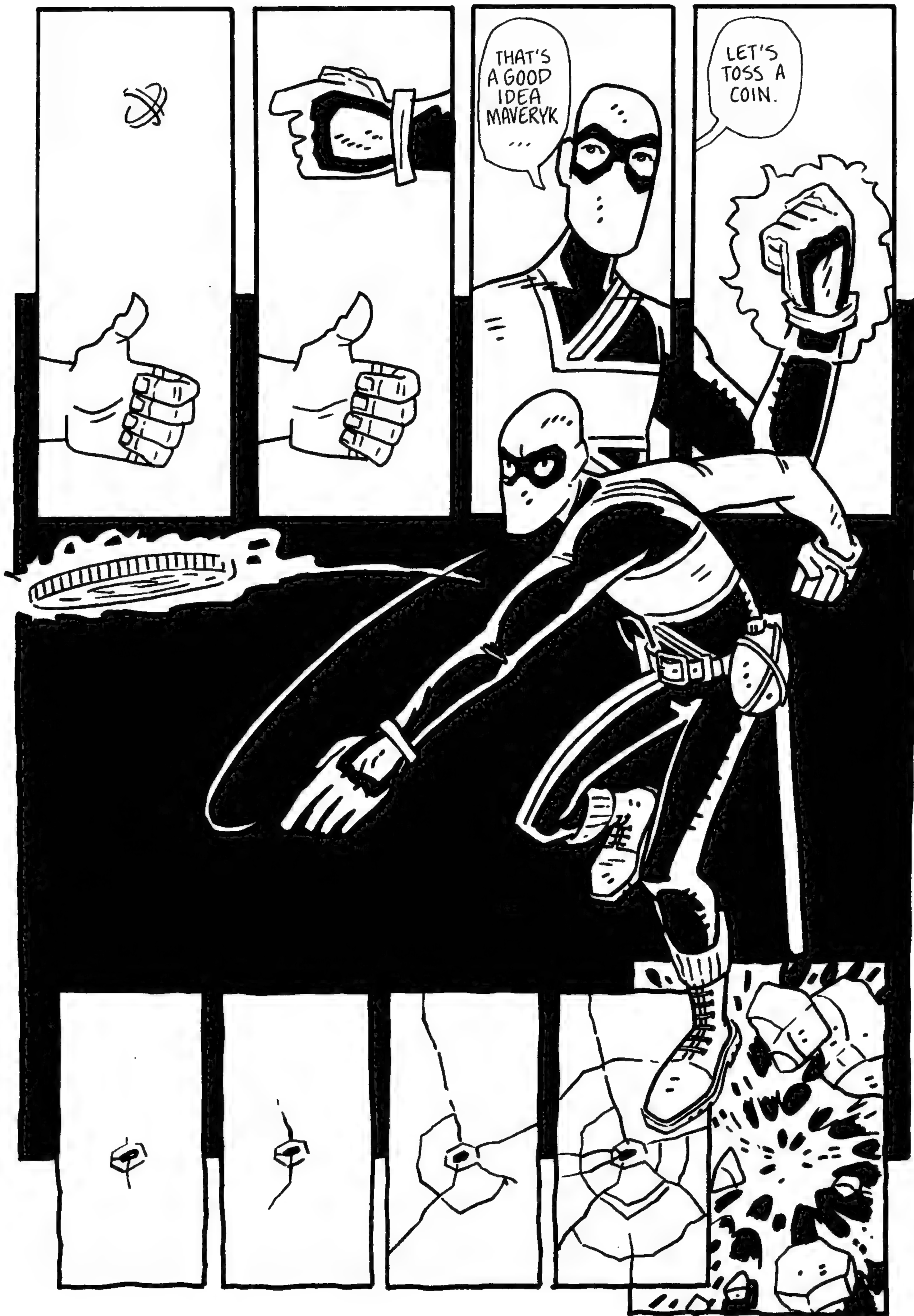


BLAM!









THAT'S
A GOOD
IDEA
MAVERYK
...

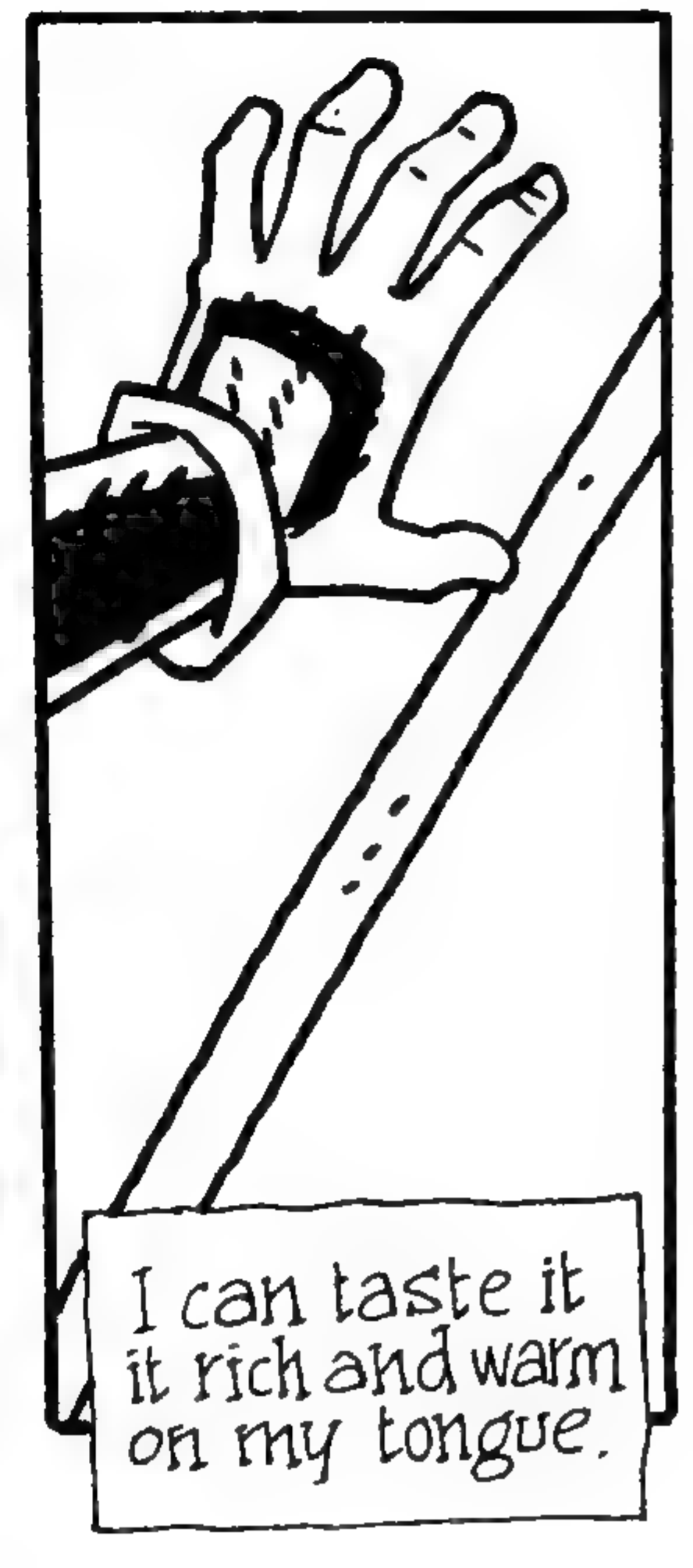
LET'S
TOSS A
COIN.

BECKY BURDOCK

VAMPIRE REPORTER

I SAID
DROP
THE
STICK!

Great. Now I get to add GIRL
HOSTAGE to my list of job skills.



ALRIGHT
YOU LOT
HAVE BEEN
ENOUGH
TROUBLE.

I WANT
YOU ALL
IN THE
VAULT.

Quenching my thirst.

Feeding my hunger.

WHAT'S
AMATTER
MAVERYK?

Thirst.

Hunger.

Blood.

NOT SO
KEEN ON
BEING
LOCKED
UP eh?

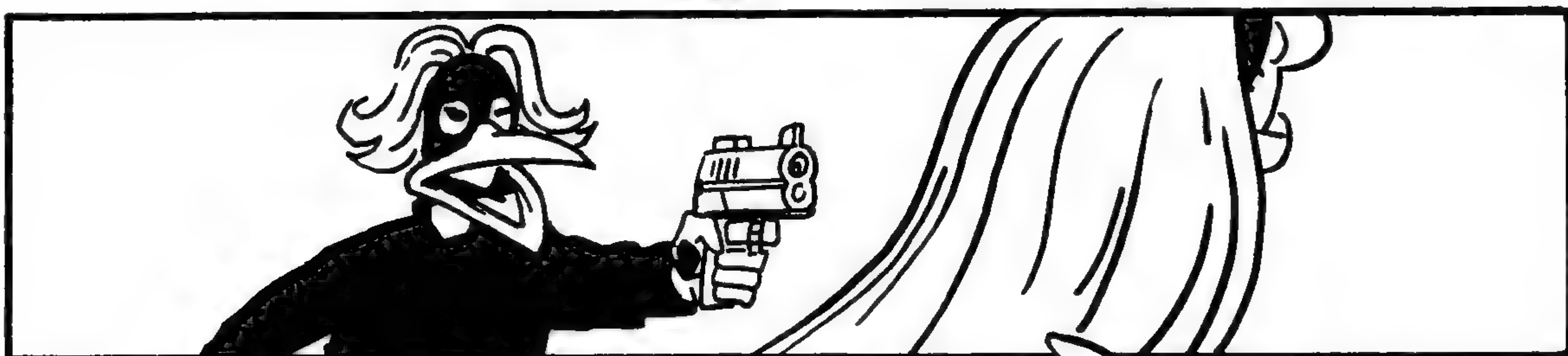
SLAM

OKAY
MISTER
MANAGER
...

LET'S
NOT HAVE
ANY
FUNNY
STUFF.

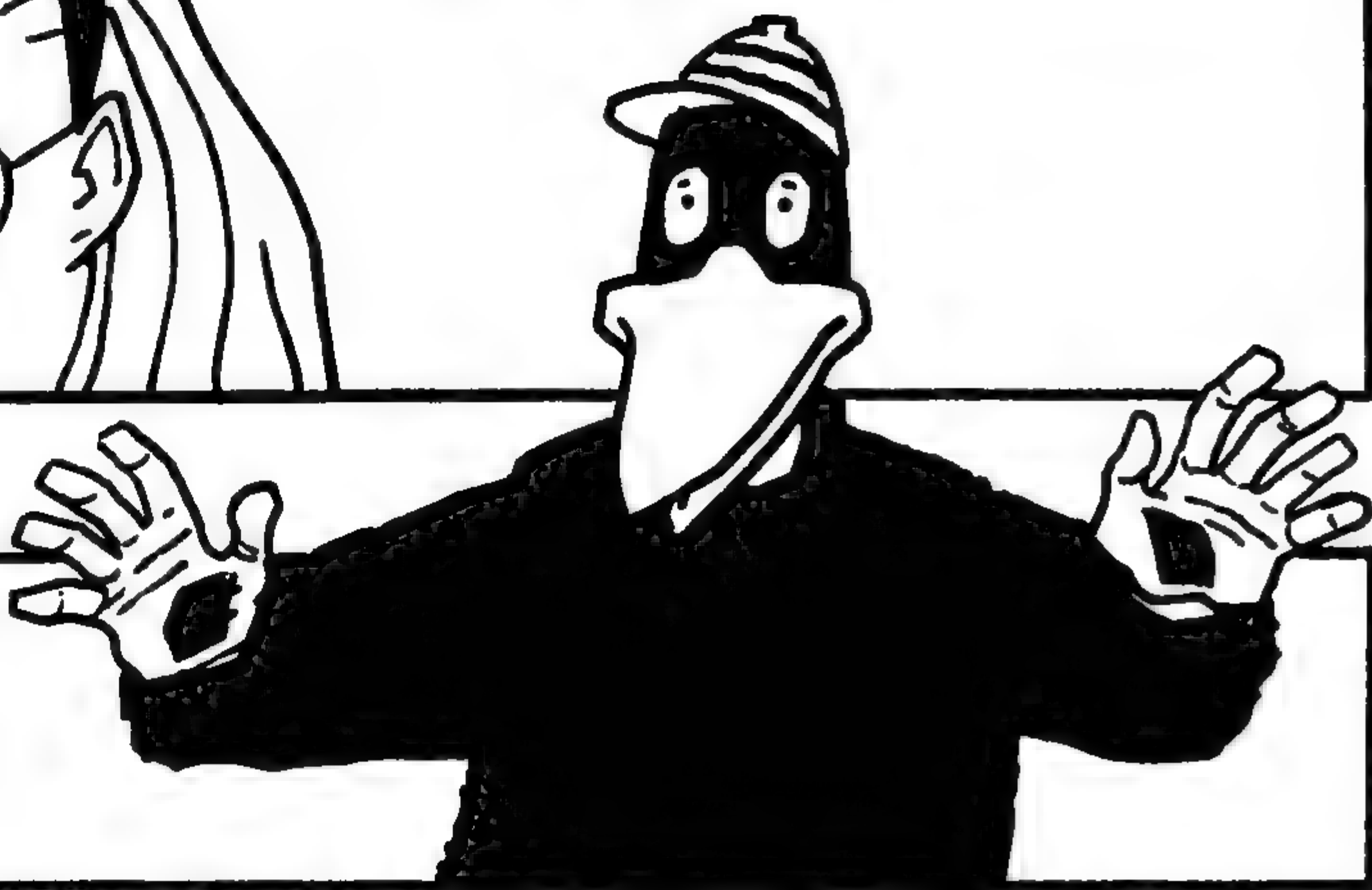
YOU
DON'T
WANT ANY
BLOOD
ON YOUR
HANDS
D'YOU?

It always ends
with blood.

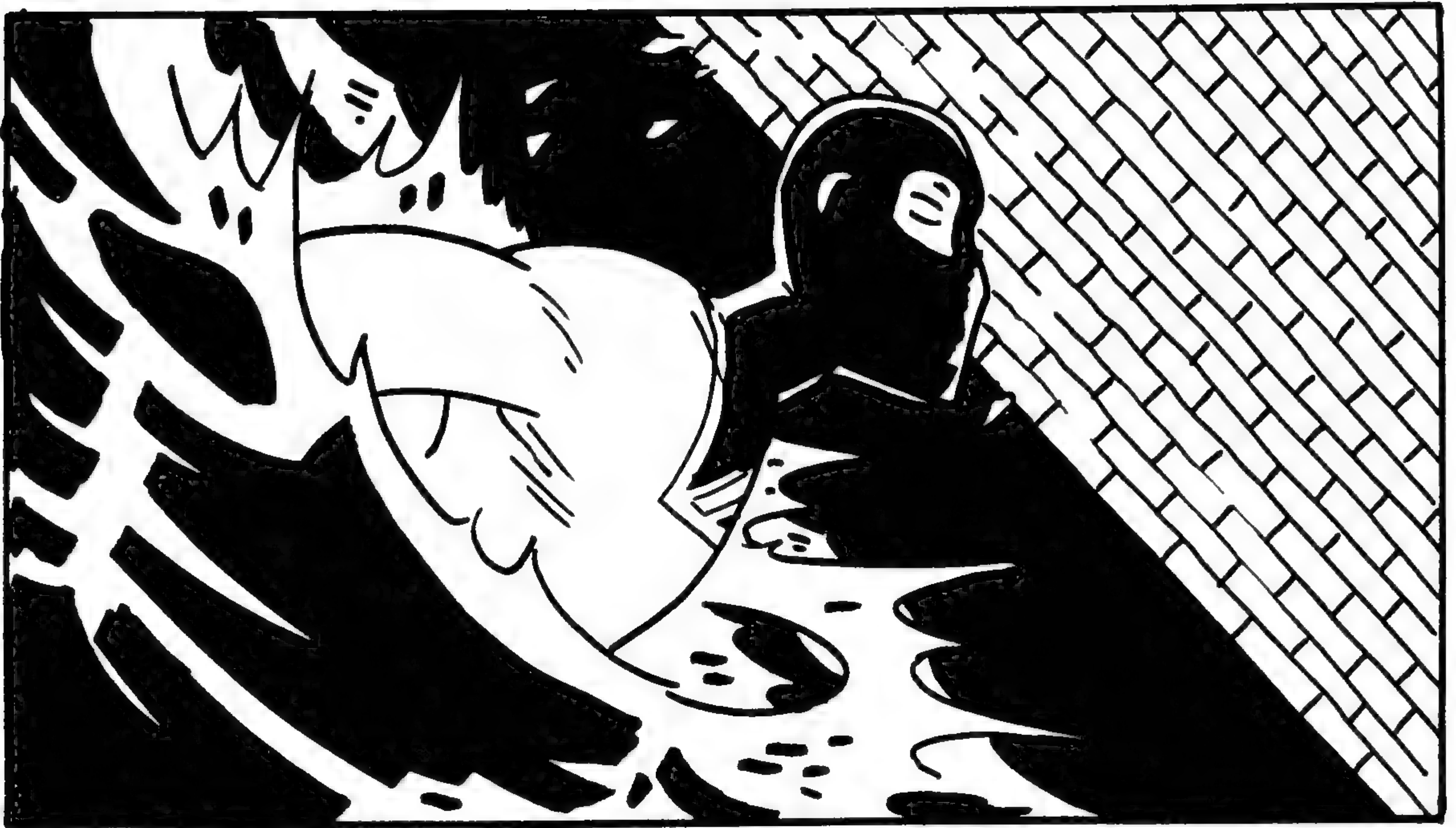


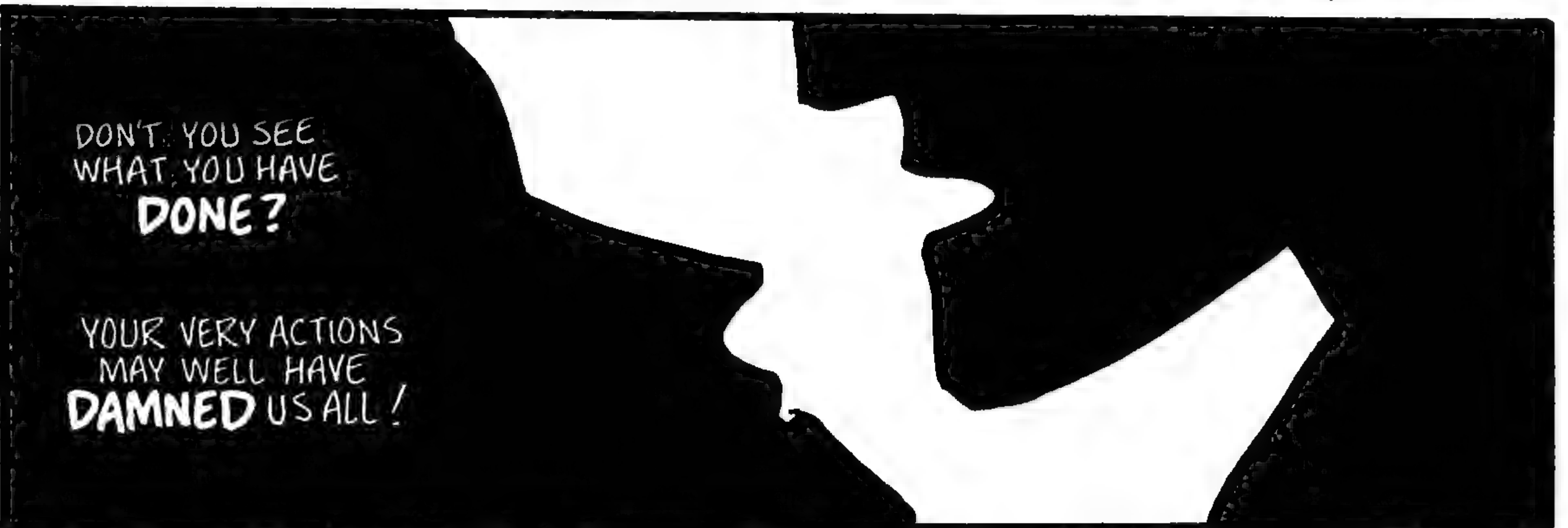
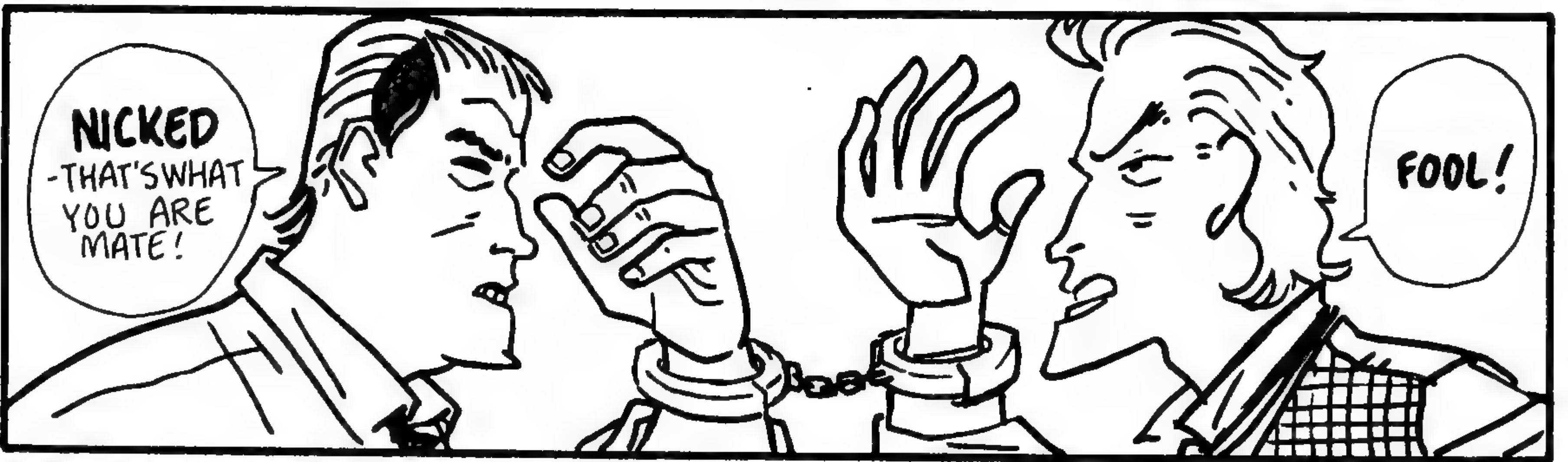
He's scared of me.
So am I ...

The police sirens sound
outside. They're just in
time.











FOR A MOMENT,
TIME STANDS
STILL AND HOLDS
IT'S BREATH.



THEN TIME
STOPS. A SINGLE
MOMENT WHICH
LASTS AN ETERNITY
BEFORE IT SPLITS
OPEN, FOLDS IN,
AND THEN, FINALLY,
IT REBUILDS
ITSELF.

WITH JUST ONE SMALL
DIFFERENCE ...



WHAT?

WHAT
DID YOU
DO TO
HER
STAFF?

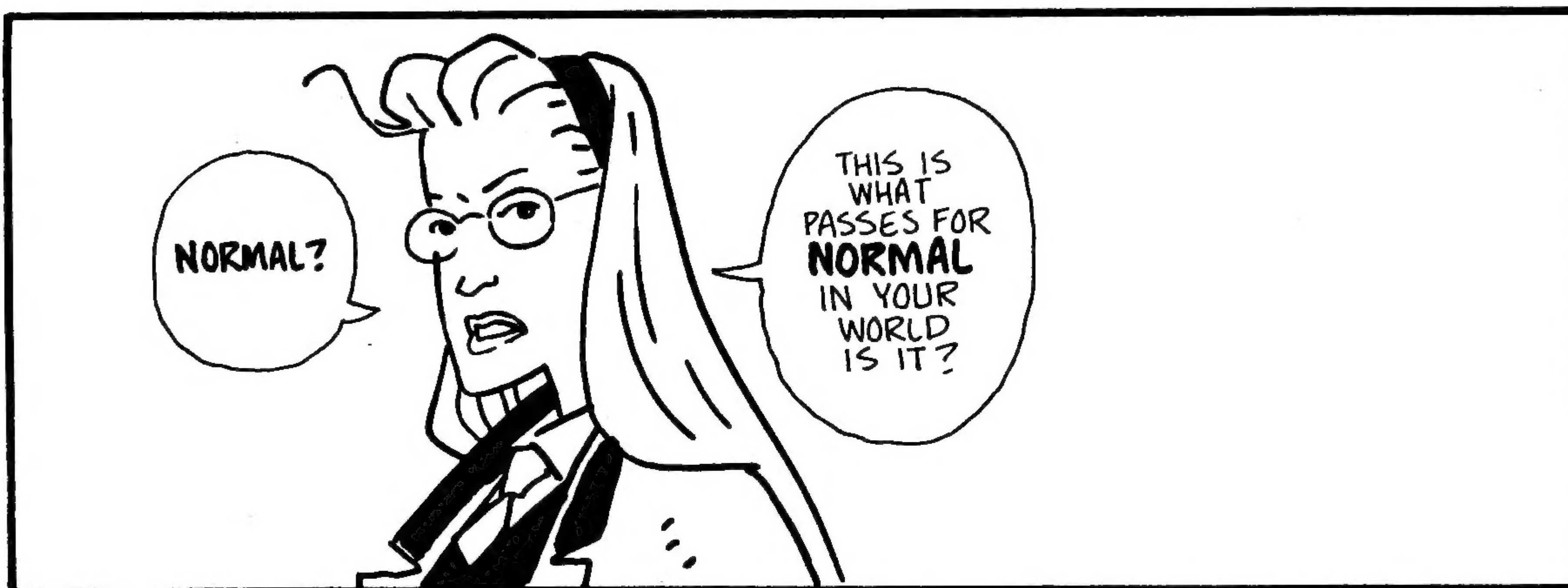
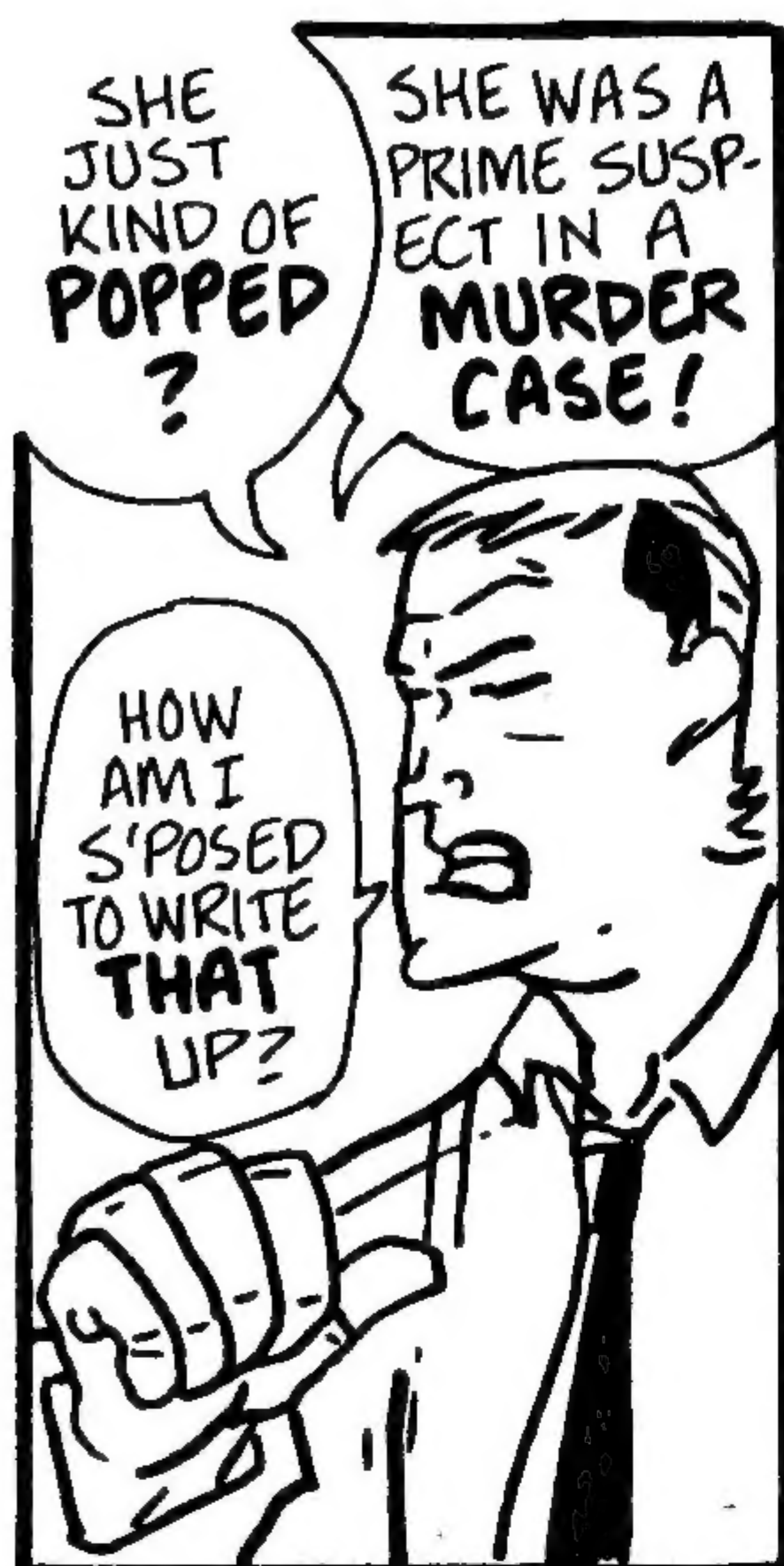


I --
DON'T
KNOW.



SHE
JUST
KIND OF
POPPED!







WHAT ?



IT'S A COMMON MISTAKE. IT'S CALLED THE UNION FLAG.

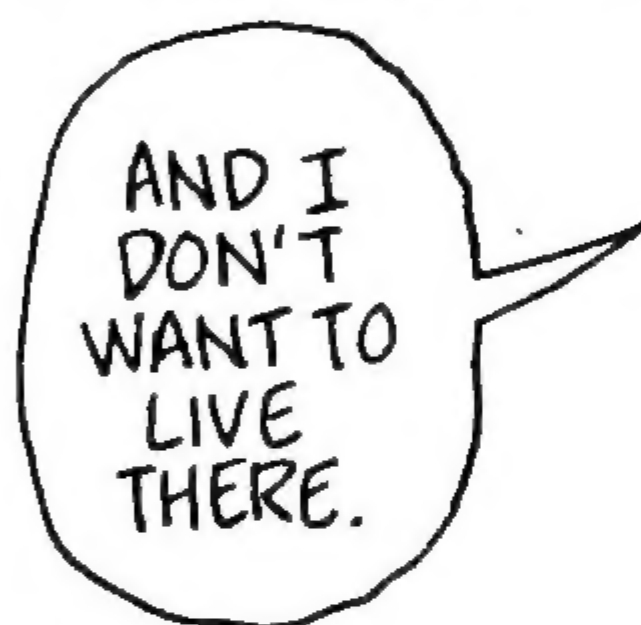
IT'S ONLY A UNION JACK WHEN

LOOK- I DON'T CARE!

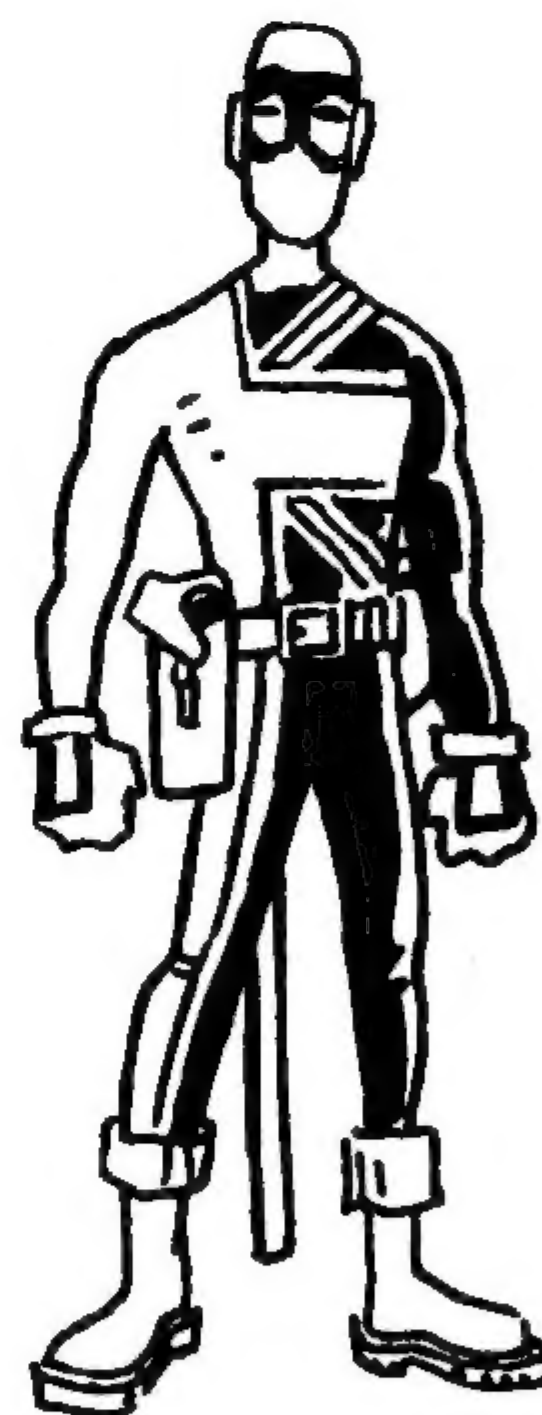
I'VE HAD IT. I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH MONSTERS AND VILLAINS.



YOU LIVE IN A WEIRD WORLD ...



AND I DON'T WANT TO LIVE THERE.



STAFF POST

DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS
P.O. Box 104, Highbridge TA9 4WD, England
Danceleph@aol.com

Paul -

Thank you for the continued excellence of your work! Just read through "Jack Staff #10", and it is once again brilliant. (I've been following you since early "Kane" issues.) If only a third of the comic creative folk out there could match what you come out with on a (semi-) regular basis, the comics out there would have a lot more to reward the casual reader.

Alex Toth often quotes Adam Stern: "Make it so simple that you can't cheat." Thank you for keeping it simple and giving us other creative folk something to shoot for.

Andrew Hess
Andrewh@beckermayer.com

As long as it's for and not at. That's all.

Dear Dancing Elephant and Paul Grist:

This is just a short of thanks for the great series "Jack Staff". It's one of the best books I've read in my 40 years of comic reading. I discovered it a year ago when I was over in London doing research at the Natural History Museum (and having lunch with Ray Harryhausen, but that's another story). I don't follow comics as much as I used to but I wandered down to Forbidden Planet and picked up a few things including a couple of issues of Jack Staff and some Kane. Great stuff! I love the writing and the art! I've found the compilation of the 1st four issues of Jack and I'm slowly filling in the rest that I'm missing. I understand from #11 that I just found that Image has picked it up. I'm looking forward to seeing more stories (although I know I'll be in the minority preferring B&W stories). Good luck with it all!

Cheers,

Michael Ryan
Royal Tyrrell Museum
Box 7500
Drumheller, Alberta
T0J 0Y0
Canada

Mr Grist

I've followed the Dancing Elephant series from 1 - 11 but I thought there was to be a twelfth issue before the Image series began. Did it happen? Have I missed it?

Any chance that we'll see Kane back in new graphic novel stories?

Darren Hirst
d.hirstjcla@btinternet.com

Image are reissuing the Kane collections starting with book 1, Greetings From New Eden in January. Book 2 is scheduled for April, and I'm planning on starting work on an all new book early next year.

Mr. Grist,

One day, ages ago, I bought the first issue of Jack Staff on a lark. I was immediately floored. Superhero comics that were fun AND smart! Characters that acted like people, despite being in a superhero universe. I was hooked immediately.

Then a friend got me onto Kane as well. And I realized you had done St. Swithin's day, an old favorite.

I suppose this is just your typical fan letter, if you get right down to it. I just read Jack Staff 11 and saw your email address. Why not, right? Anyway, you've been told this a lot before, but I see you as one of the folks ready to take comics into the next "age" or "era" or whatever.

On a side note, I've recently begun collecting artists' interpretations of the Marvel Family. They were childhood favorites of mine and I think they kind of symbolize how fun superheroes can be, and how rarely they're done well these days. I know you must be a busy man, but I was wondering if there's any chance I could commission you to do a piece with them in it. My collection is in its early stages, but yours would hang proudly next to my Mahfood and my Giordano.

Whether you can or can't, I hope all is well. Can't wait for Burglar Bill and more Jack Staff. Take care.

Joe Rice
Gijorice@yahoo.com

I get a few requests like this, but I'm sorry I only do sketches at conventions or signings. On a related note though, I'm really looking forward to Jeff Smith's Captain Marvel series next year!

I'LL BE
BACK

...

JUST
GIVE ME
A BIT MORE
TIME,
THAT'S
ALL I
NEED...

